GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:678
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003
RAILWAYS TO GO ONLINE
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided and taken steps to hit the information (Cyber) highway to get "connected" to go online;

(b) if so, the progress so far made in that direction;

(c) the facilities provided or to be provided to passengers under the scheme; and

(d) the cost involved therein so far and the estimated total expenditure to be incurred on the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENTREFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS(a) TO(d) OF STARREDQUESTION NO.678 BY SHRIMATI RENUK CHOWDHURYAND SHRIJYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA TO BE ANSWERED IN LSKBHA ON 08.05.2003 REGARDINC RAILWAYS TO GO ONLINE.

(a) to (d) : (i) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways have introduced on-line services since mid 1980s beginning with computerisation of passenger reservation followed by Freight Operations Information System(FOIS),National Train Enquiry System(NTES) and Unreserved Ticketing System

(UTS). During the preceding 3 years, some of these services have been web enabled and now reserved ticketing, reservation related enquiries like passenger fares, Time Table information, Complaints & Suggestions, tourist information etc are available on the Web.

ii) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a Corporation under the Ministry of Railways, has started on-line reserved ticketing service. This service enables a passenger to book and pay for his ticket online and have the ticket delivered at the desired address.

iii) Ministry of Railways has also set up RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (RailTel), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways to create a nationwide telecom and multi-media network by utilizing Railways' Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) assets and Right of Way (ROW).

RailTel plans to provide as pilot projects Internet kiosks at New Delhi Railway station and Internet services on one of the selected trains during the current financial year using its OFC network.Extension of these services will be considered after successful trials. RailTel also plans to connect 150 important cities and 1,500 stations on optic fibre cable network progressively which will enable provision of on-line services to Railway passengers.

iv) The upgradation the modernization of passenger related information to provide additional and easy accessibility of information to passengers is a continuous exercise which is being undertaken by Zonal Railways and other units of Railways like IRCTC, Central Railway Information System(CRIS),RailTel. So far railways have incurred around Rs.856.73 cr. on computerization of various services. Upgradation & modernization of railway services is a continuous process.